

Appl. No. 09/622,047  
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 9, 2004 and Feb. 23, 2005

Attorney Docket: P65855US0

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for block encryption of discrete data, comprising the steps of: generating an encryption key in the form of a set of subkeys, breaking down a data block into  $N \geq 2$  subblocks and converting in turn said subblocks by performing a two-place operation on the subblock and the subkey, characterised by transforming the subkey with the operation of transposing bits, which changes initial sequence of the subkey bits and a data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock prior to performing the two-place operation on the i-th subblock and subkey, where  $i \neq j$ .

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterised in that data dependent permuting subkey bits is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterised in that data-dependent rotation of subkey bits is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, characterised in that a data-dependent substitution operation performed on a subkey is used as data-dependent operation that depends on the j-th subblock.